

Message Text

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60

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-01 PER-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 INR-07

EUR-12 PM-04 OMB-01 ABF-01 /058 W

----- 104839

R 131228Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0185

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

SECDEF WASHDC//ISA

JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 3371

AF/W FOR SMITH AND SVENDSEN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJ: REDUCTION IN MAAGS -- LIBERIA

REF: (A) MONROVIA 3000, (B) MONROVIA 2529, (C) MONROVIA 2058

1. USCINCEUR ECDC 8253 081134Z MAY 76

SENT ONLY TO SECDEF, JCS

AND CLIBMISH MONROVIA RELATES TO ABOVE SUBJECT. I HAVE ASKED THAT IT BE REPEATED TO DEPARTMENT. HQ EUCOM SUGGESTS IN THAT MESSAGE THAT CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITIES NOW BEING PERFORMED BY US MILITARY MISSION HERE SHOULD BE TAKEN OVER STARTING NOW BY USAID (OR SOME OTHER U.S. AGENCY) IN ORDER TO INSURE CONTINUATION OF THOSE ACTIVITIES SHOULD DISESTABLISHMENT OF USMM BECOME NECESSARY UNDER LEGISLATION JUST VETOED (AND PRESUMABLY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR EFFORT TO ENACT OVER VETO).

2. USCINCEUR MESSAGE MAY BE TAKEN AS ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF DISESTABLISHMENT OF USMM IN LIBERIA. IN SO FAR AS THAT IS CONC-

ERNED. I WISH TO STATE THAT I STAND BEHIND VIEWS EXPRESSED MONROVIA TELEGRAMS REFERENCED ABOVE AND TO RECORD FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

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A. CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS MENTIONED REFTEL WERE DEVELOPED FOR THEIR VALUE IN TEACHING TROOPS ADVANTAGES OF OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS AND OF COOPERATIVE EFFORT. BY OBSERVING THESE ADVANTAGES IN MATTERS AFFECTING THEIR PERSONAL WELLBEING (HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATIONS, AND FOOD) SOLDIERS ARE MADE TO SEE VALUE OF OBEDIENCE AND COOPERATION IN PERFORMANCE OF THEIR MILITARY TASKS. WHILE THESE ASPECTS OF MILITARY LIFE MAY SEEM OBVIOUS TO SOPHISTICATED WESTERNERS, THEY ARE NOT TO RAW TRIBAL MATERIAL THAT COMPOSES SOLIERY HERE, TO WHOM VERY IDEA OF HIERARCHICAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION IS NOVEL.

B. USCINCEUR'S MESSAGE APPEARS TO MISCONSTRUE USMM'S ROLE IN HOUSING, IRCE-PADDY AND FARM-TO-MARKET ROAD CONSTRUCTION. THAT ROLE IS NOT MERELY TO SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION LOOKING TO CRATION OF BLOCKS IN PROGRAM OF NATION-UBUILDING. RATHER USMM'S FUNCTION IN THIS REGARD IS TO ASSIST AFL LEARN HOW TO CARRY OUT ESSENTIAL PART OF ITS ROLE IN MANAGEMENT OF DEFENSE EFFORT. THESE CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITIES ARE USED TO TRAIN AFL IN SUCH MILITARY FUNCTIONS AS KEEPING SUPPLIES IN PIPELINE, PLANNING FOR ACQUISITIONS OF EQUIPMENT, MANAGING ITS RESOURCES. IT IS TRUE THAT RESULT IS HOUSES, ROADS AND RICE PADDIES, BUT AIM IS TO DEVELOP AFL TO PERFORM INTEGRAL PART OF TYPICAL MILITARY MISSION OF ARMED FORCES OF SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRY SUCH AS LIBERIA.

3. SO FAR AS TRANSFERRAL OF THESE MILMISH ACTIVITIES TO USAID IS CONCERNED, EMBUASSY NOTES THAT THERE MAY BE LEGAL QUESTON ABOUT USAID'S OPERATING IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE AREA. MOREOVER, THERE WOULD NO DOUBT ARISE A CONSIDERABLE PROBLEM OF CREDIBILITY OF CIVILIANS DOING MILMISH MWORK. FOR AFL PERCEIVES THESE ACTIVITIES AS RELEVANT TO ITS MILITARY MISSION.

4. EMBASSY IS FRANKLY BMUSED BY USCINCEUR MESSAGE. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IT HAS BEEN AGREED IN WASHINGTON THAT U.S. MILITARY MISSION LIBERIA WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN REDUCTION-IN-MAAGS PROGRAM EVEN IF ENACTED. PRESUMABLY HQ EUCOM IS ALSO AWARE OF THAT WASHINGTON OPINION. POINT, HOWEVER, IS THAT PIPELINE ON PERSONNEL REPLACEMENTS IS STILL TURNED OFF, DESPITE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF LEGISLATION ON WHICH TURN OFF WAS PREMISED. ACTION IS URGENTLY REQUIRED TO REMOVE HOLD
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ON TRANSFER ACTIONS.
CARTER

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NNN

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